

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**IN THE SPECIFICATION:****Page 5**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 17 through Page 6, line 8 as follows:

“Journal of Colloid and Interface Science” (243, 85-89, 2001) discloses a method for producing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by adding hydrazine to an aqueous alkaline solution of copper sulfate to which a small amount of a polyhydric alcohol is added as an additive (method 4). The cuprous oxide ultrafine particles obtained by this method are preferred because they have a small primary particle diameter of 9-30 nm. And, they further have an advantage that a precipitate of ~~200-1 μ m~~ 200nm-1 μ m in secondary particle diameter is produced, and hence the particles can be easily separated from the reaction solution. However, the precipitate obtained is a hard agglomerate comprising secondary particles formed by strong agglomeration of the primary particles, and this precipitate is difficult to redisperse in a dispersion medium. Therefore, a colloidal solution in which the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles are in the colloidal state in the dispersion medium cannot be prepared using the resulting particles.

Page 35

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 28 through Page 36, line 17 as follows:

The agglomerating agents used in this production method may be inorganic compounds or organic compounds, but when organic compounds are used, it is preferred

that they do not completely volatilize at a temperature at which diethylene glycol is heated, and the preferred boiling point is 160°C or higher. The inorganic compounds include, for example, inorganic salt compounds such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride. Among the agglomerating agents, especially preferred is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of monoalcohol compounds, ether compounds, ester compounds, nitrile compounds, ketone compounds, amide compounds, imide compounds and sulfur compounds. Examples thereof are octanol, dodecanol, diethylene glycol diethyl ether, ~~diethylene glycol diethyl ether~~, diisobutyl ketone, acetonylacetone, 2-ethylbutyl acetate, 2-ethylhexyl acetate, γ -butyrolactone, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, etc.

Page 45

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 17 through line 25 as follows:

The sugar alcohols include, for example, glycerol, erythritol, pentaerythritol, pentitol, pentose, hexitol, hexose, heptose, etc. The sugars include, for example, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol, maltitol, arabitol, lactitol, adonitol, ~~cellobitol~~ cellobiose, glucose, fructose, sucrose, lactose, mannose, galactose, erythrose, xylulose, allose, ribose, sorbose, xylose, arabinose, isomaltose, dextrose, glucoheptose, etc.

Page 46

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 8 through Page 47, line 18 as follows:

The firing agents usable in the third step are additives for forming copper thin films higher in denseness and better in quality by firing the dispersion of the copper oxide

ultrafine particles obtained in the third step, and examples of the firing agents are polyether compounds. The polyether compounds are compounds having an ether linkage in the backbone, and it is preferred to uniformly disperse them in the dispersion medium. From the point of dispersibility in the dispersion medium, non-crystalline polyether compounds are preferred, and particularly preferred are aliphatic polyethers in which repeating units are straight chain and cyclic oxyalkylene groups of 1-8 carbon atoms. The molecular structure of the aliphatic polyether in which repeating units are straight chain and cyclic alkylene groups of ~~2-8~~ 1-8 carbon atoms may be cyclic, straight chain or branched, and may be binary or higher polyether copolymers or straight chain or branched chain binary or higher polyether block polymers. Examples of them are polyether homopolymers such as polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polybutylene glycol, and, furthermore, binary copolymers such as ethylene glycol/propylene glycol and ethylene glycol/butylene glycol, and straight chain ternary copolymers such as ethylene glycol/propylene glycol/ethylene glycol, propylene glycol/ethylene glycol/propylene glycol and ethylene glycol/butylene glycol/ethylene glycol, to which the polyether compounds are not limited. Examples of the block copolymers are polyether block copolymers, e.g., binary block copolymers such as polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol and polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol, and straight chain ternary block copolymers such as polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol and polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol polyethylene glycol. The terminals of these compounds may be modified with substituents such as alkyl group.

Page 49

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 11 through line 26 as follows:

The average primary particle diameter of the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles is measured by observing the surface using a transmission electron microscope (JEM-4000FX) manufactured by ~~JASCO Corporation~~ JEOL Ltd. In the surface observation by the electron microscope, three portions where the particles are relatively even in primary particle diameter are selected in the visual field and photographed at a magnification which is most suitable for measurement of particle diameter of the object to be measured. Three particles which are considered to be present in large number are selected from each photograph, and the diameter thereof is measured by a scale and the primary particle diameter is calculated. The average value thereof is taken as the average primary particle diameter.